(a) whether it is a fact that the responsibility of construction of National Highways Development Project-II has been entrusted to National Highways Authority of India;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that originally Rs. 5.14 crores per Km had been sanctioned for the construction of roads under the said project; and

(c) if not, the facts in this regard and whether it is also a fact that an amount of Rs. 6.4 crores per km. is being spent for construction; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the cost estimate considered for National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-II, the average per kilometre cost including land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation, shifting of utility, supervision consultancy etc. were considered as Rs. 5.14 crore at 2002 prices.

(c) The per Km cost of the project would be known after award/ completion of the projects. However, there has been increase in per Km. awarded cost due to increase in price and in the intervening process as award of the projects were carried in the year 2005-06.

Supply of DWT Bulkers by Hindustan Shipyard Limited

959. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the international price of 30,000 DWT Bulkers is estimated to be US $ 30 million;

(b) if so, whether the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. has signed a settlement/ agreement with M/s Goodearth Maritime Limited, Chennai for providing 30,000 DWT Bulker for US $ 17.5 million;

(c) the reasons for supplying the Bulkers to M/s Goodearth Maritime Limited at a cheaper price; and

(d) the estimated loss incurred by Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. as a result of this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) has informed that the price of such ship today is around US $ 22.5 million. In 2004, a similar ship would not have costed more than US $ 17.5 — 18.00 million.

(b) HSL has signed agreements with M/s Goodearth Maritime Limited (GML), Chennai for construction of 4 Nos. 30,000 DWT Bulkers at US $ 17.514 million for each vessel plus VAT applicable on the delivery of the vessel payable at actual.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Hindustan Shipyard Limited's MoA

960. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Shipyard Limited has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with M/s Goodearth Maritime Ltd. (GML), Chennai providing for handing over of Offshore Platform Yard for block construction GML vessels;

(b) if so, whether this agreement was signed to take advantage of the HSL's expertise;

(c) whether the employees and officers of HSL have opposed this agreement;

(d) if so, the issues raised by them; and

(e) the corrective steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) has entered into an agreement with M/s Goodearth Maritime Limited, (GML), Chennai *inter-alia* for starting block fabrication work of steel in offshore